

**CLAIMS:**

Having thus described out invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1           1. A method for navigating between two or more  
 2 programs, each program capable of being instantiated to form a  
 3 program instance, said method comprising the steps of:  
 4           (a) embedding and enabling engine in an origin program  
 5 and instantiating the origin program;  
 6           (b) invoking the enabling engine for the origin program  
 7 instance which is responsive to the origin program instance for  
 8 enabling navigation;  
 9           (c) interrogating a rule-base and retrieving one or  
 10 more conditions associated with the origin program instance;  
 11           (d) utilizing said one or more conditions to query and  
 12 evaluate data managed by the origin program instance; and  
 13           (e) establishing and displaying one or more navigation  
 14 paths to a user via a graphical display by utilizing results of  
 15 said evaluation.

1           2. The method for navigating between two or more  
 2 programs as claimed in Claim 1, the method further comprising the  
 3 step of:  
 4           enabling said user selection of a navigation path from  
 5 said one or more navigation paths thus displayed.

1           3. The method for navigating between two or more  
 2 programs as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said rule-base includes  
 3 one or more actions associated with said origin program instance,  
 4 said method further comprising the step of:

5  
 6           instantiating a target program, which is a function of  
 7 the user selection of the navigation path and navigating to the  
 8 target program instance by utilizing at least one of said one or  
 9 more actions.

1           4. The method for navigating between two or more  
2 programs as claimed in Claim 1, the method further comprising the  
3 steps of:

4           storing and retaining a navigation path associated with  
5 the origin program instance.

1           5. The method for navigating between two or more  
2 programs as claimed in Claim 4, the method further comprising the  
3 step of:

4           enabling the user to navigate backwards from the target  
5 program instance to the origin program instance by displaying the  
6 navigation path associated with the origin program instance via  
7 said graphical display.

1           6. The method for navigating between two or more  
2 programs as claimed in Claim 1, the steps of establishing and  
3 displaying one or more navigation paths further comprising:

4           utilizing state data managed by the origin program  
5 instance and role of said user for evaluating one or more  
6 navigation paths available to the user.

1           7. The method for navigating between two or more  
2 programs as claimed in Claim 3, further comprising:

3           performing remaining actions from said one or more  
4 actions not utilized for executing functionality supported by the  
5 target program instance.

1           8. The method for navigating between two or more  
2 programs as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the target program is a  
3 web browser.

1           9. The method for navigating between two or more  
2 programs as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the rule-base resides on  
3 a network.

1 10. The method for navigating between two or more  
2 programs as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the rule-base resides  
3 locally on the user's system.

1 11. The method for navigating between two or more  
2 programs as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the target program  
3 resides locally on the user's system.

1 12. The method for navigating between two or more  
2 programs as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the target application  
3 program resides on a network.

1 13. The method for navigating between two or more  
2 programs as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the navigation paths,  
3 which are established and displayed comprise a workflow for  
4 sequentially performing one or more tasks.

1 14. The method for navigating between two or more  
2 application programs as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the  
3 functionality supported by the target program is displaying a  
4 particular web page.

1 15. A system for navigating between two or more  
2 programs, each program capable of being instantiated to form a  
3 program instance having data associated therewith, said system  
4 comprising:

5 (a) a rule-base for storing one or more conditions and  
6 one or more actions associated with said program instance;

7 (b) an enabling engine embedded in said program  
8 instance enabled for interrogating said rule-base and retrieving  
9 said one or more conditions and said one or more actions;

10 (c) said enabling engine including a mechanism for  
11 querying said program instance data, evaluating said data against

12 said one or more conditions, and establishing one or more  
13 navigation paths; and  
14 (d) a display means for displaying said one or more  
15 navigation paths to a user.

1 16. The system for navigating between two or more  
2 programs as claimed in Claim 15, wherein said display means  
3 enables said user selection of a navigation path from said one or  
4 more navigation paths thus displayed.

1 17. The system for navigating between two or more  
2 programs as claimed in Claim 15, wherein said enabling engine  
3 further comprises:

4 means for instantiating a target program, which is a  
5 function of the user selection of the navigation path; and

6 means for navigating to the target program instance by  
7 utilizing at least one of said one or more actions.

1 18. The system for navigating between two or more  
2 programs as claimed in Claim 15, the system further comprising:  
3 a means for storing and retaining a navigation path  
4 associated with the program instance.

1 19. The system for navigating between two or more  
2 programs as claimed in Claim 17, the system further comprising:  
3 means for enabling the user to navigate backwards from  
4 the target application instance to an origin program instance by  
5 displaying the navigation path associated with the origin program  
6 instance via said display means.

1 20. The system for navigating between two or more  
2 programs as claimed in Claim 15, the system further comprising:  
3 means for utilizing state data managed by the program  
4 instance and role of said user for evaluating one or more  
5 navigation paths available to the user.

1           21. The system for navigating between two or more  
2 programs as claimed in Claim 17, the system further comprising:  
3           means for performing remaining actions from said one or  
4 more actions not yet performed for executing functionality  
5 supported by the target program instance.

1           22. The system for navigating between two or more  
2 programs as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the target program  
3 comprises a web browser.

1           23. The system for navigating between two or more  
2 programs as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the rule-base resides on  
3 a network.

1           24. The system for navigating between two or more  
2 programs as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the rule-base resides  
3 locally on a user's computer system.

1           25. The system for navigating between two or more  
2 programs as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the target program  
3 resides locally on a user's computer system.

1           26. The system for navigating between two or more  
2 programs as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the target program  
3 resides on a network.

1           27. The system for navigating between two or more  
2 programs as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the navigation paths  
3 comprise a workflow for sequentially performing one or more  
4 tasks.

1           28. The system for navigating between two or more  
2 programs as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the functionality

3 supported by the target program is displaying a particular web  
4 page.

1 29. The navigation system as claimed in Claim 15,  
2 wherein the program is an application program.

1 30. The navigation system as claimed in Claim 15,  
2 wherein the program is an executable component of an application  
3 program.

1 31. A program storage device readable by a machine,  
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the  
3 machine to perform method steps for navigating between two or  
4 more programs, each program capable of being instantiated to form  
5 a program instance, said method steps comprising:

6 (a) embedding and enabling engine in an origin program  
7 and instantiating the origin program;

8 (b) invoking the enabling engine for the origin program  
9 instance which is responsive to the origin program instance for  
10 enabling navigation;

11 (c) interrogating a rule-base and retrieving one or  
12 more conditions associated with the origin program instance;

13 (d) utilizing said one or more conditions to query and  
14 evaluate data managed by the origin program instance; and

15 (e) establishing and displaying one or more navigation  
16 paths to a user via a graphical display by utilizing results of  
17 said evaluation.

1 32. The program storage device as claimed in Claim 31,  
2 further comprising the step of:

3 enabling said user selection of a navigation path from  
4 said one or more navigation paths thus displayed.

1 33. The program storage device as claimed in Claim 31,  
2 wherein said rule-base includes one or more actions associated

3 with said origin program instance, further comprising the step  
4 of:

5       instantiating a target program, which is a function of  
6 the user selection of the navigation path and navigating to the  
7 target program instance by utilizing at least one of said one or  
8 more actions.

1       34. The program storage device as claimed in Claim 31,  
2 further comprising the step of:

3       storing and retaining a navigation path associated with  
4 the origin program instance.

1       35. The program storage device as claimed in Claim 31,  
2 further comprising the step of:

3       enabling the user to navigate backwards from the target  
4 program instance to the origin program instance by displaying the  
5 navigation path associated with the origin program instance via  
6 said graphical display.

1       36. The program storage device as claimed in Claim 35,  
2 the steps of establishing and displaying one or more navigation  
3 paths further comprising:

4       utilizing state data managed by the origin program  
5 instance and role of said user for evaluating one or more  
6 navigation paths available to the user.

1       37. The program storage device as claimed in Claim 33,  
2 further comprising the step of:

3       performing remaining actions from said one or more  
4 actions not yet performed for executing functionality supported  
5 by the target program instance.

1       38. The program storage device as claimed in Claim 31,  
2 wherein the target program is a web browser.

1           39. The program storage device as claimed in Claim 31,  
2 wherein the rule-base resides on a network.

1           40. The program storage device as claimed in Claim 31,  
2 wherein the rule-base resides locally on the user's system.

1           41. The program storage device as claimed in Claim 31,  
2 wherein the target program resides locally on the user's system.

1           42. The program storage device as claimed in Claim 31,  
2 wherein the target application program resides on a network.

1           43. The program storage device as claimed in Claim 31,  
2 wherein the navigation paths that are established and displayed  
3 comprise a workflow for sequentially performing one or more  
4 tasks.

1           44. The program storage device as claimed in Claim 37,  
2 wherein the functionality supported by the target program is  
3 displaying a particular web page.